

pain whatever; sleeps well; swelling on cheek diminishing; pain has entirely left the orbit; secretion into the mouth from the wound in the antrum diminished. Ordered a gargle of the tincture of myrrh. Appetite has also returned. Had been sitting up, and walking about her room without any inconvenience. Has taken a little sulphate of magnesia; has not required any anodyne.

*Dec. 3.* The patient has been progressing favourably up to this time. The wound has healed entirely, the line of cicatrix is becoming effaced; not the slightest trace of the *douloureux* remaining. There is no paralysis of the muscles of the face upon the side operated on.

In the case of this patient, the nerve was enlarged, very vascular, thickened and red. Two inches of the nerve were removed.

45 LAFAYETTE PLACE, NEW YORK, *Dec.*, 1857.

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ART. XIII.—*A Singular Case of Catalepsy successfully treated with the Nitrate of Silver.* By WM. R. KING, M. D., of Louisburg, N. C.

THE patient was a girl aged 11, delicately formed, dark complexion, black hair, with unusually brilliant black eyes, sprightly countenance, quick spoken, and playful in manners. She had a slight attack of sickness during the month of August, 1856, accompanied with fever and headache. However, her symptoms were so mild that her parents considered it unnecessary to call in a physician. She soon recovered, but during convalescence it was observed that she occasionally became affected with spasms, chiefly in her upper extremities.

I was called to visit her in consultation with the family physician, and very soon after approaching her bedside she had spasms in the upper and lower extremities, which I supposed was caused by mental agitation at the sight of a stranger. The fingers and toes were in a semiflexed position, the feet being extended in a line with the legs, which were in a rigid state of spasm, also the arms throughout their length. The spasm was of the tonic order, the parts remaining perfectly rigid, which required considerable force to overcome. The limbs remained in every position in which they were placed, as in ordinary cases of catalepsy. She was conscious of all things around her, and answered questions promptly, though in a subdued tone. Her pulse was accelerated and small, but became greatly reduced in frequency when she was free from spasm. Her father remarked that she would remain in that condition an indefinite time, unless the contraction of the muscles was overcome by force; whereupon he extended the fingers, which caused an immediate relaxation of the spasm of the upper extremities, but the legs and toes remained fixed until the same process of "unlocking" (to use his own language) was performed, when she immediately assumed a happy and playful countenance as formerly. Pressure on the nape of the neck, where I found considerable tenderness, also on the crown of the head, over a space about the size of the palm, would immediately produce the same state of things. Sweeping the floor, patting the foot, sawing wood, and all harsh or grating sounds, from whatever cause proceeding, had the same effect. If she was in a profound sleep the floor could not be swept ever so softly without awaking her and causing spasm to some extent.

The treatment consisted, first, in a mild purgative course with blue mass, &c., followed by the valerianate of zinc, with counter-irritation over the cervical vertebræ; and subsequently the various chalybeate preparations were tried, but without any improvement whatever in her condition. This plan of treatment was pursued for several months at irregular intervals.

My second visit was made some time during the month of May last, when I found the same symptoms existing, and in some respects in an aggravated form, although on my arrival I found her at play. Pressure on the crown of the head, as formerly, produced spasm commensurate with the amount of force applied. At one time it became so violent as to cause considerable distortion of the features by a spasmodic action of the muscles on the right side of the face, as well as the right oblique muscles of the eyes, drawing the globe considerably to the right and downwards. She became speechless, but retained her consciousness. Whenever she was thus violently affected, which her father informed me was not often, he could not unlock her in the usual mode of extending the semiflexed fingers and toes, but would take her in his arms and toss or swing her to and fro, when a sudden relaxation followed.

The tenderness which was found to exist over the cervical vertebræ at my first visit had now been transferred to the four lower dorsal and lumbar vertebræ, over which there was considerable tenderness. Appetite and digestion good.

The treatment was renewed with  $\frac{1}{4}$  gr. doses of the nitrate of silver three times a day, gradually increased to  $\frac{1}{2}$  gr., with counter-irritation with strong croton oil liniment over the tender vertebræ, under which she rapidly improved and entirely recovered from all nervous disorders. Whenever, during the treatment, she complained of headache or any other cerebral disturbance, the nitrate was suspended for a while, and the bowels gently moved with small doses of blue mass, followed by a saline cathartic or castor oil. The patient will be kept upon some mild chalybeate until her general health is thoroughly invigorated; but she has been for many weeks entirely free from all her former symptoms. There remains considerable tenderness of the scalp and vertebræ, and pressure applied to either part causes much pain, but without the slightest spasm of any of the muscles. Her general appearance is now good, complexion beginning to assume a healthy hue; and her gait, which formerly was cautious and somewhat tottering, is now nimble and strong.